



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-INWEH

International Network on
Water, Environment and Health

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Project Officer (Global Environmental Change and Human Health)

Personal Service Agreement
Based in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Organizational Unit: UNU-INWEH, 175 Longwood Road South, Suite 204
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Reference Number: 2009/INWEH/PO-02

Closing Date: 14 August 2009

Address applications to: contact@inweh.unu.edu

Application process: The application package, to be submitted electronically only, should include: (a) a letter of intent; (b) the UNU Personal History form, downloadable from the website (**please do not submit your curriculum vitae**); (c) a list of publications and/or recent writing sample; and d) full contact information of three referees. The application package should be preferably prepared as pdf files and attached to an e-mail sent to the above address. Incomplete applications will not be considered. We regret that it will not be possible to acknowledge applications and only the short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Institutional Context: The International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) is a unit of the United Nations University based in Canada (www.inweh.unu.edu). It was created in 1996 with its core funding provided by the Government of Canada, and is hosted at McMaster University, Hamilton. Its purpose is to strengthen land and water management, particularly of developing countries, through capacity development and policy-relevant research. Activities are undertaken with minimal overhead and flexible teams are assembled from different disciplines and countries with the precise skills and expertise required to meet a given need.

UNU-INWEH is the host institute of Global Environmental Change and Human Health (GECHH) International Project Office (IPO). GECHH is a Joint Project of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP, www.essp.org). The ESSP is comprised of four global environmental change research programmes: DIVERSITAS - an international programme on biodiversity science (www.diversitas-international.org), IGBP - International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (<http://igbp.net>), IHDP - International Human Dimensions Programme (www.ihdp.unu.edu) and WCRP - World Climate Research Programme (<http://wcrp.wmo.int>).

The Project's main research goals are to:

1. Identify and quantify health risks posed by GEC, now and in the reasonably foreseeable future
 - Develop methods of modelling/understanding tradeoffs between economic development, environmental change and human health
 - Take account of the roles of culture, social institutions and technology choices in modulating health risks, affecting vulnerability and influencing policy response
2. Describe spatial (geographic, intra/inter-population) and temporal differences in health risks, to better understand vulnerabilities and priorities for interventions
3. Develop adaptation strategies for reducing health risks, assess their cost-effectiveness, and communicate results (especially to decision-makers)
4. Foster research training programs, to boost networked international research capacity in GEC and human health

Position description: The Project Officer (PO) will be responsible for managing the IPO; the principal activities will include the following:

- Raise funds for the IPO as a primary and important task.
- Facilitate the development and implementation of the project under the guidance of the GECHH Scientific Steering Committee
- Interact with donor, policy and GEC and human health-resource communities, including UN organizations
- Coordinate and organize project meetings, workshops and conferences
- Coordinate publication and dissemination of research findings and training materials
- Maintain a Project database of information

The position will require extensive international travel as a formal representative of the project.

Qualifications: The successful candidate will hold a graduate degree in environmental sciences, health sciences, or a related discipline (PhD preferred). In addition to academic qualifications, (s)he should have at least five years' work experience at the international level, including responsibilities for project management tasks. Demonstrated experience of financial management and administrative capabilities is required. Demonstrated excellent research and writing skills, as well as a track record for fundraising are essential.

Experience of working in developing countries and a genuine commitment to capacity-building projects and to sustainable development are also valued. Fluency in English is essential and knowledge of another UN Language is desirable.

Applications from suitably qualified women and candidates from developing countries are particularly welcome.

Core Values: Be able to demonstrate the values of the United Nations, including impartiality, fairness, honesty and truthfulness, in daily activities and behavior. Respect for diversity and ability to work effectively with people from all backgrounds is essential.

Remuneration: Salary will be in the range of US\$55,000 to 65,000 p.a., commensurate with the candidate's qualifications and experience. This salary is exempt from any income taxes in Canada. For successful candidates, an economy class air ticket will be provided by UNU-INWEH for relocation to Hamilton, Canada. Annual leave is accrued at the rate of 30 days per year in addition to 10 UNU official holidays. The successful candidate will be employed under a Personal Service Agreement (PSA) and will not hold international civil servant status.

Duration of contract: The initial appointment will be for one year, with the possibility of annual renewal, based on performance.

Start date: January 2010